

Application Serial No. 10/829,451
Reply to Office Action dated August 13, 2004
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REMARKS

In view of the amendments made to the claims and in view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 40, 43 and 46 contain subject matter which would be allowed if placed in independent form. The remaining claims in the application stand rejected based on prior art. Although the Applicant does not agree with the Examiner concerning the application of the prior art against the claims in this application, in order to further the prosecution, independent claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 40; claim 25 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 43; and claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 46. Correspondingly, claims 40, 43 and 46 have been canceled. Based on these changes, it is respectfully submitted that claims 22, 25-27, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 and 45 should be readily allowed.

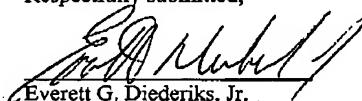
Clearly, claims 40, 43 and 46 recited the same limitation, with this limitation also being added to independent claims 23 and 27. As this limitation has been indicated to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23 and 27-31 should also be in clear condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks and the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application should now be in clear condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

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When considering the case for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to review the single publication cited by way of an IDS filed in this case on September 17, 2004. If the Examiner should have any additional concerns regarding the allowance of the application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to further expedite the prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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